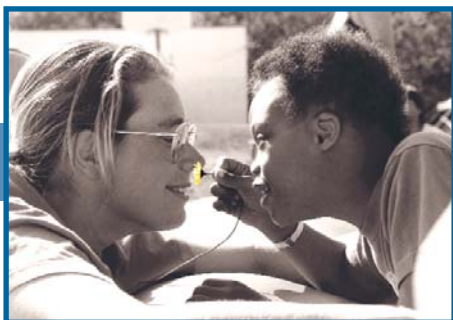


## **Crisis Response System, Call Toll-Free 1-888-393-3007 From Your Home Town**

As of November 1, 2007, the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) Crisis Response System is available statewide to families, providers and DDD staff. The Trinitas Hospital's Statewide Clinical Consultation and Training Program (SCCAT) will provide this service, funded jointly by the Division of Mental Health Services and DDD. SCCAT can be reached through a 24/7 toll-free phone line at 888-393-3007.

SCCAT clinicians will provide triage, phone consultation, face-to-face assessment and/or on-site crisis intervention services. The DDD portion of the contract tripled SCCAT's outreach capacity to more than 650 people. Stationed in four sites throughout the state, SCCAT will strive to achieve a one-two hour on-site response time. A network of agencies is being developed to provide direct crisis stabilization and support services to follow-up on the issues underlying the crisis event.

DDD, through collaboration with DMHS, developed this Crisis Response System. Together, we are committed to addressing the behavioral and mental health needs of individuals with developmental disabilities, so they may safely remain in their home and receive support from friends or family while participating in work and community activities.



## **We Have A Winner! DDD Today Is Our Official Name!**

Congratulations to teacher Roberta Serrano and her class at The Midland School (a private educational facility) in North Branch, NJ! Their submission of "DDD Today" was selected for the official name of the Division of Developmental Disabilities newsletter. The "Name that Newsletter" contest, which was announced in our first edition in September, received 43 entries.

"DDD Today" was chosen since it reflects the division's efforts today and every day, to best serve DDD consumers. "Working together to provide services for people with developmental disabilities and their families, we learn from the past and prepare for the future in order to provide the best possible services today," said Assistant Commissioner Ken Ritchey. "DDD appreciates the submissions of all of the participants and extends gratitude and congratulations to teacher Roberta Serrano and her creative students!"

✓ Remember to Vote - Election Day:  
November 6, 2007

✓ **Employment and Day Program Services:**  
**11/28, 11/29, & 12/7**

## **Collaborating to Enhance Consumer Services**

The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) collaborates with many other New Jersey state agencies to benefit all DHS consumers. We work with the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), the Department of Children and Families (DCF), the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD) and the Department of Education (DOE), as well as other divisions within the Department of Human Services (DHS). For more information about state agencies, go to [www.state.nj.us](http://www.state.nj.us). DDD also works in partnership with a variety of private, human services related agencies.

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Currently, there are several collaborative efforts to bring enhanced services and resources to DDD consumers. DDD's collaboration with the DHS Division of Mental Health Services (DHMS) is an on-going commitment to bring services to individuals with co-occurring mental health and developmental disabilities needs. DHS Commissioner Jennifer Velez is organizing a Dual Diagnosis Task Force to examine and make recommendations regarding the system of services that supports these dual needs. The DDD and DMHS Assistant Commissioners are committed to using their full resources to expand this task force.

Additionally, DDD and DMHS are part of an ongoing effort to facilitate discharges from state psychiatric hospitals, as well as participating in a joint contract for the Crisis Response System that expands existing resources to serve more consumers. This collaboration expands existing services as well as advocacy opportunities for both DMHS and DDD consumers.

As an extension of our collaboration with DMHS, DDD works in concert with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Division of Child Behavioral Health (DCBH) on developing an initiative to expand the existing capacity to serve children with co-occurring developmental disabilities and emotional and behavioral disorders. The goal is to gain greater access to existing services and to expand services for children with co-occurring disabilities.

As noted in last month's newsletter, DDD offers training for families of children with developmental disabilities. These trainings are a collaborative effort with the DOE, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVRs) and the DHS' Division of Disability Services (DDS) to provide information to families for each major stage of their children's lives. (Web address for DDD Newsletter)

With cases of Autism on the rise, Governor Jon S. Corzine recently signed seven Autism Bills ([September 12, 2007](#)). DDD is establishing the New Jersey Adults with Autism Task Force, and DDD will work in partnership with DHSS to develop an autism registry.

DDD consumers often require supports and services from multiple divisions within DHS. DDD is now collaborating with DDS to create a new way for DDD consumers and families to find up-to-date information about statewide and community resources. More details about this exciting endeavor will be forthcoming and, of course, families and consumers will be the first to know with a letter from Assistant Commissioner Ritchey in early 2008.

## Partner Profile: NJACP

DDD continues to host meetings with representatives from key stakeholder groups to share information and discuss ways to enhance the service system. The second meeting in this series was held with the Alliance for the Betterment of Citizens with Disabilities (ABCD) Executive Director Lowell Arye.

[ABCD](#) is a statewide organization representing member agencies that provide a wide variety of community-based services to people with multiple physical and developmental disabilities and their families. [ABCD](#) is the youngest developmental disabilities trade association, representing 16 agencies who serve approximately 10,000 individuals.

[Lowell Arye](#) has over 20 years of experience working for the betterment of citizens with disabilities. Nationally, he served as a policy analyst in the Office of the Secretary for the US Department of Health and Human Services. For the past 10 years, he has served as the executive director of ABCD.

Arye's mission is to impact policy at the highest level of government through advocacy with the Office of the Governor, DHS and DDD. Partnering with DDD to maximize federal revenues, bringing parity to funding for the cost of providing care and educating the state legislature about issues of concern to the developmental disabilities community are just a few items on the "Things to Do" list for ABCD.

